



# Environmental Bulletin

Volume 12, Number 15  
September 27, 2001

*from the Savannah River Site*

## No health hazards posed

## Design for K Area waste units completed

The Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) announce the completion of the final design of the remedy selected for the K-Reactor Area Burning/Rubble Pit (KBRP) and Rubble Pile (KRP) Operable Unit (OU) and the availability of a Pre-construction Fact Sheet.

This fact sheet provides a description of the remedy selected for the K-Reactor Area Burning/Rubble Pit and Rubble Pile at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The K-Reactor Area Burning Rubble Pit and K-Rubble Pile Operable Unit consists of two waste units and a contaminant groundwater plume. The KBRP/KRP OU is situated in the central portion of the SRS in Barnwell County, South Carolina, approximately 6 miles east of the nearest site boundary and 0.5 miles east of the K-Reactor Area.

The remedial action for the waste unit and media are:

- *K-Area Burning/Rubble Pit and Rubble Pile*  
Soil Cover over the KBRP and KRP with Institutional Controls
- *K-Area Water Table Aquifer*  
Groundwater Mixing Zone/Monitored Natural Attenuation

The selected remedies are protective of human health and the environment, comply with federal and state requirements that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate to the remedial action, and cost-effective. Institutional controls will be an integral part of the selected remedies mentioned above. Institutional con-

trols implemented at the site will consist of future land-use restrictions and access controls, such as signs.

There will be no health hazards posed to off-site communities as a result of this remedial action.

### ***Fact Sheet available***

The Pre-construction Fact Sheet for the SRS K-Reactor Area Burning/Rubble Pit and Rubble Pile operable unit is available at the following locations:

DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;

Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC;

Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA;

Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

For additional information, contact Jim Moore at 1-800-249-8155 or e-mail: [jim02.moore@srs.gov](mailto:jim02.moore@srs.gov)

*Comments requested through November*

## Agencies select amended remedy for CMP Pits

The Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected an amended interim remedial action for Savannah River Site's (SRS) Chemicals, Metals, and Pesticides (CMP) Pits. A 45-day public comment period for the amended Interim Record of Decision is planned from September 27 to November 10, 2001.

The amended interim remedial decision is documented in the amended Interim Record of Decision document. This document will include a responsiveness summary that addresses any public comments submitted to SRS on the action. The DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure the interim remedial action is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

DOE, the EPA, and SCDHEC determined that an amended interim remedial action is necessary for this unit. The amended interim remedial action selected is:

**1) Ballast Area** – Eliminate further action as part of the interim remedial action. Evaluate technologies for on unit treatment in a feasibility study and propose an alternative remedial action for the contaminated soils as part of the final action.

**2) Vadose Zone** – Eliminate installation of an asphalt cover as part of the interim remedial action to allow further characterization work in the pit area. Proceed with the operation of the soil vapor extraction system and evaluate additional remedies, such as a cover system, as part of the final action.

**3) Groundwater Hot Spot** – Eliminate air sparging as part of the interim remedial action. Complete characterization of the groundwater plume. Evaluate alternatives for groundwater remediation as part of a feasibility study. Propose a remedy as part of the operable unit final action.

Copies of the amended Interim Record of Decision are available in the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Copies of the amended Interim Record of Decision are also available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

The amended Interim Record of Decision will be available on the Internet at the SRS Home Page (<http://www.srs.gov>), under "Happening Now," and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, under "Public Involvement," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>). For additional information or to make public comments, contact Jim Moore at 1-800-249-8155.

### Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Quarterly Board Meeting

**October 22 - 23**  
**Sheraton Augusta Hotel**

Public comments, 6:30 p.m.; Issue-based subcommittee meetings, 7 p.m., October 22  
Full board meeting, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., October 23

# Interim action planned for Old Solvent Tanks

The Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected an interim remedial action for Savannah River Site's (SRS) Old Solvent Tanks at the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground. A 45-day public comment period for the Statement of Basis/Interim Action Proposed Plan was held from April 4, 2001 to May 18, 2001.

The interim remedial action is documented in the Interim Record of Decision document. This document includes a responsiveness summary that addresses any public comments submitted to SRS on the action. The DOE has worked with EPA and SCDHEC to ensure the interim remedial action is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

DOE, the EPA, and SCDHEC determined that an interim remedial action is necessary for this unit. The interim remedial action selected is explained below:

The solvent tanks will remain in place and all 22 tanks will be completely filled with grout. Grouting is selected as the preferred alternative because this alternative poses the lowest risk to the workers who will be implementing the remedy, is sufficiently permanent to prevent long-term collapse of the tanks, provides some reduction in leachability, presents the fewest implementability concerns, and is the lowest cost option that still meets the Remedial Action Objectives (RAO)s.

Grouting will meet the RAOs by preventing collapse of the tanks, by limiting exposure to tank contents, and by reducing the threat of release of contamination from the tanks into the soil. This response also satisfies the RAO to minimize risk to workers because the risk to worker exposure is relatively low compared to other more intrusive response actions (such as treatment/removal). In addition, the resulting solid mass will reduce the possibility of intrusion.

An interim remedial action is proposed because of the uncertainty of the groundwater remediation within the overall unit remediation strategy.

## *Information Repositories*

Copies of the Interim Record of Decision are available in the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Copies of the Interim Record of Decision are also available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

The Interim Record of Decision will be available on the Internet at the SRS Home Page (<http://www.srs.gov>), under "Happening Now," and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, under "Public Involvement," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>).

For additional information, contact Jim Moore at the address listed below.

Westinghouse Savannah River Company  
Savannah River Site  
Building 742-A  
Aiken, SC 29808  
1-800-249-8155  
[jim02.moore@srs.gov](mailto:jim02.moore@srs.gov)

# MAILING LIST

Name \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Add to mail list

\_\_\_\_ Remove from mail list

\_\_\_\_ Correct my address

Mail to:

SRS Environmental Bulletin  
Savannah River Site  
Building 742-A  
Aiken, S.C. 29808



---

## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other  
environmental and compliance activities  
at SRS, please contact:

Jim Moore

Donna K. Martin

Westinghouse

Westinghouse

Savannah River Company

Savannah River Company

Aiken, S.C. 29808

Aiken, S.C. 29808

(800) 249-8155

Public Involvement

e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov (803) 725-7169

Access the Environmental Notice web site:  
[http://www.SRS.GOV/general/srenviro/  
envbul/ebinex.htm](http://www.SRS.GOV/general/srenviro/envbul/ebinex.htm)

---

The SRS Environmental Bulletin  
Savannah River Site  
Building 742-A  
Aiken, S.C. 29808